

In re: Brader-Araje *et al.*
Serial No.: 09/549,370
Filed: April 13, 2000
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In the Specification:

1. Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 7-19 with the following amended paragraph.

Hundreds of auction sites are currently accessible via the Internet, with more coming on-line everyday. Many types of products and services are bought and sold via these on-line auction sites. For example eBay (~~www.ebay.com~~) and Auction.com (~~www.auction.com~~) allow visitors to participate in auctions for items in various categories, including collectibles, antiques, sports memorabilia, jewelry, and the like. OnSale (~~www.onsale.com~~) and uBid (~~www.ubid.com~~) allow visitors to participate in auctions for computer products, sports and fitness equipment, electronics equipment, travel packages, and the like.

2. Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 20 through page 2, line 10 with the following amended paragraph.

In addition, some enterprises offer their own products and services for sale through auctions conducted on their own Web sites. For example, The Sharper Image (650 Davis Street, San Francisco, CA) conducts auctions on their web site (~~www.sharperimage.com~~) that allow consumers to bid on products offered for sale by The Sharper Image. Winning bids may be treated like normal purchase transactions between buyers and The Sharper Image, similar to buying from The Sharper Image store, catalog, or Internet store.

3. Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 1-15 with the following amended paragraph.

Accordingly, it would be desirable for consumers to be able to search multiple auction sites easily for information relating to items being auctioned without being required to visit each auction site. Various Web sites have emerged recently which attempt to "aggregate" or collect auction information from multiple auction sites and present the data to consumers. For example, BidFind (~~www.bidfind.com~~) utilizes a "bot" or "crawler" that visits multiple on-line auction sites to collect data associated with various items offered for sale at each auction site. This auction item data is conventionally collected by parsing the Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) code of various web pages at an auction site and extracting data related to auction items from the HTML code.

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4. Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 2-18 with the following amended paragraph.

A Web server (also referred to as an HTTP server) is a computer program that utilizes HTTP to serve files that form Web pages to requesting Web clients. Exemplary Web servers include International Business Machines Corporation's family of Lotus Domino® servers, the Apache server (~~available from www.apache.org~~), and Microsoft's Internet Information Server (IIS), available from Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington. A Web client is a requesting program that also utilizes HTTP. A browser is an exemplary Web client for use in requesting Web pages and files from Web servers. A Web server waits for a Web client, such as a browser, to open a connection and to request a specific Web page or application. The Web server then sends a copy of the requested item to the Web client, closes the connection with the Web client, and waits for the next connection.

5. Please replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 13-29 with the following amended paragraph.

The Web server 12 is the "front end" component of the intermediary Web site 10 and is configured to handle various client requests from users accessing the intermediary Web site 10. Exemplary Web servers that may be utilized as a Web server 12 in the illustrated system 10 are Apache, available from the Apache Server Project, ~~<http://www.apache.org>~~; Microsoft's Internet Information Server (IIS), available from Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington; and Netscape's FastTrack® and Enterprise™ servers, available from America Online, Inc., Dulles, Virginia. Other Web servers that may be utilized include Novell's Web Server for users of its NetWare® operating system, available from Novell, Inc., San Jose, California; and IBM's family of Lotus Domino® servers, available from International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, New York.